Complaints about EVMs

3472. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of complaints have been lodged before the Election Commission by various parties regarding the use and service of the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs);

(b) the details of the complaints and the steps taken to mitigate the said complaints; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the electoral officers appointed by Government do not have sufficient knowledge about the machines?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Scrapping of outdated laws

3473. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of laws which have outlined their necessity and need to be scrapped;

(b) if so, whether Government has made a list of such laws; and

(c) whether Government is planning to scrap such out-dated laws within a strict time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) Yes, Sir. Review/repeal of all laws, including those enacted during the British era, with a view to bring them in harmony with the current economic, social and political situation in the country is a continuous process. This task is undertaken by concerned nodal Ministries/Departments of the Central Government administering the respective laws and generally by the Law Commission of India. The concerned Ministry/Department examines the recommendations of the Law Commission of India in respect of laws being administered by them as to its feasibility of reviewing or repealing them.

(b) and (c) The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances of the Central Government had already set up a Committee on Review of Administrative Laws under the chairmanship of Shri P.C Jain with the objective of examining the need of amendments in and repeal of laws, among others. The salient features of the recommendations of the said Committee included, among others, amendment of laws/ rules, review of Acts of critical importance and repeal of dysfunctional/irrelevant laws. The implementation of the report submitted by the said Committee on Review of Administrative Laws is being monitored by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances. The status of repeal and review of Statutes recommended by the Committee is given in the Statement.